

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NOTES OF THE MEETING 24.03.2015:

The President Paul Elliot opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 21 members present. He invited **Brian Asquith** to give his presentation on **Chinese Airmails**.



Brian's interest in aircraft came from being taken, in his pushchair, to see a biplane which had force landed near his home in 1935 and that he flew as an Air Signaller on the last Lancaster bombers, on Coastal Command, during his National Service.

The display covering 40 years of collecting began with a British Balloon Section cover sent in 1901, during the Boxer Rebellion. Brian displayed internal commercial flights in China which in the early 1920's were intermittent and largely individual. 1929 saw the beginning of regular airmail services along the Yangtse Kiang River by a variety of aviators.

Brian's display showed many covers including crash covers as well as luggage labels, postcards and photographs of aircraft. Mail from various routes was shown both internally to China and internationally.

The display was very comprehensive and had been carefully researched. Members enjoyed viewing the material and following a vote of thanks from President Paul the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.